

## COUNTRY DATA: SOUTH KOREA: Information from the CIA World Factbook


### INTRODUCTION

An independent Korean state or collection of states has existed almost continuously for several millennia. Between its initial unification in the 7th century - from three predecessor Korean states - until the 20th century, Korea existed as a single independent country. In 1905, following the Russo-Japanese War, Korea became a protectorate of imperial Japan, and in 1910 it was annexed as a colony. Korea regained its independence following Japan's surrender to the United States in 1945. After World War II, a Republic of Korea (ROK) was set up in the southern half of the Korean Peninsula while a Communist-style government was installed in the north (the DPRK). During the Korean War (1950-53), US troops and UN forces fought alongside soldiers from the ROK to defend South Korea from DPRK attacks supported by China and the Soviet Union. An armistice was signed in 1953, splitting the peninsula along a demilitarized zone at about the 38th parallel. Thereafter, South Korea achieved rapid economic growth with per capita income rising to roughly 14 times the level of North Korea. In 1993, KIM Young-sam became South Korea's first civilian president following 32 years of military rule. South Korea today is a fully functioning modern democracy. In June 2000, a historic first North-South summit took place between the South's President KIM Dae-jung and the North's leader KIM Jong Il. In October 2007, a second North-South summit took place between the South's President ROH Moo-hyun and the North Korean leader. Harsh rhetoric and unwillingness by North Korea to engage with President LEE Myung-bak following his February 2008 inauguration has strained inter-Korean relations.

### GEOGRAPHY

<b>Location</b>	Eastern Asia, southern half of the Korean Peninsula bordering the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea.
<b>Area</b>	99,720 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	Temperate, with rainfall heavier in summer than winter.
<b>Natural Resources</b>	Coal, tungsten, graphite, molybdenum, lead, hydropower potential.
<b>Total Renewable Water Resources</b>	69.7 cu km (1999)
<b>Freshwater Withdrawal</b>	18.59 cu km/yr (36%/16%/48%)
<b>Natural Hazards</b>	Occasional typhoons bring high winds and floods; low-level seismic activity common in southwest. Volcanism: Halla (elev. 1,950 m, 6,398 ft) is considered historically active although it has not erupted in many centuries.
<b>Environmental Issues</b>	Air pollution in large cities; acid rain; water pollution from the discharge of sewage and industrial effluents; drift net fishing.

### PEOPLE

Population	48,636,068 (July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups	Homogeneous (except for about 20,000 Chinese).
Religions	Christian 26.3% (Protestant 19.7%, Roman Catholic 6.6%), Buddhist 23.2%, other or unknown 1.3%, none 49.3% (1995 census).
Languages	Korean, English widely taught in junior high and high school.
Literacy Rate	97.9%
Major Infectious Diseases	HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: less than 0.1% (2007 est.) 
GOVERNMENT	
Type	Republic
Independence	15 August 1945 (from Japan).
Constitution	17 July 1948; note - amended or rewritten many times; current constitution approved on 29 October 1987.
Legal System	Combines elements of continental European civil law systems, Anglo-American law, and Chinese classical thought; has not accepted compulsory International Court of Justice jurisdiction.
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	Rice, root crops, barley, vegetables, fruit; cattle, pigs, chickens, milk, eggs; fish.
Industries	Electronics, telecommunications, automobile production, chemicals, shipbuilding, steel.
Import commodities	Machinery, electronics and electronic equipment, oil, steel, transport equipment, organic chemicals, plastics.
Import Partners	China 17.7%, Japan 14%, US 8.9%, Saudi Arabia 7.8%, UAE 4.4%, Australia 4.1% (2008)
Export Commodities	Semiconductors, wireless telecommunications equipment, motor vehicles, computers, steel, ships, petrochemicals.
Export Partners	China 21.5%, US 10.9%, Japan 6.6%, Hong Kong 4.6% (2008).
Per Capita GDP	\$28,100 (2009 est.)
Population below poverty line	15% (2003 est.)

\*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

**COUNTRY: Republic of Korea**

General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	79.8 years
Average number of years in School (in years)	11.6 years
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	\$29,518
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	13.7%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	79.4%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	91.7%
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	54.5%
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	75.6%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	100%
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	NA
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	10%
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	22%

<b>Sustainability</b>	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	82%
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	1%
Population without Access to Water (%)	2%
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	0%
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	.12%
<b>Human Security</b>	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	1,100
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	NA
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	<5%
<b>Demographics</b>	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	83%
<b>Health</b>	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	<.1%
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	<.1%
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	<.1%
<b>Other</b>	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	NA
Population without Electricity (%)	NA

## Republic of Korea's Public Expenditure

